I am a SEL pilot with IFR privileges. I use the PC based IFR trainer from 'ELITE Pro Trainer V 5.3' which is probably not even certified for training. I want to relate what my IFR checkout instructor said to me on my second compentacy check. He was amazed at how well I did on the second time he checked me out. He said, "You must have been flying a lot of IFR training since 2 years ago. You did almost perfect this year". In truth, which I told him, I spent about 8 hours with my simulator before flying with him for my compency check out. The Elite PC trainer forces you to pay close attention to your scan, which is the most important part of IFR flying. It keeps you on altitude and heading when flying a route, and the localizer, airspeed, and glide slope when on an approach. PLEASE do not pass any regulation that would take away these lower cost programs that could make the difference between a pilot going for IFR training or recurrency. They are very valuable programs and can save MANY lives.
Thank you.